

COMMANDANT'S PROFESSIONAL READING LIST

May 2009

15 Stars: Eisenhower, MacArthur, Marshall: Three Generals Who Saved the American Century, by Stanley Weintraub. New York: Free Press, 2007.

An account of the lives of the three five-star generals, intertwined against the background of six decades, from two world wars to the Cold War, is history at its most dramatic. Their story opens a fascinating window onto some of the twentieth century's most crucial events and reveals the personalities behind the public images. Counterparts and on occasion competitors, they had leapfrogged each other, sometimes stonewalled each other, even supported and protected each other throughout their celebrated careers. In the public mind they stood for integrity and competence. But for dramatic twists of circumstance, all three -- rather than only one -- might have occupied the White House.

Bound Together: How Traders, Preachers, Adventurers and Warriors Shaped Globalization, by Nayan Chanda. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2007.

Chanda reviews and illustrates the economic and technological forces at play in globalization today and discusses strategies for embracing an inevitably global world.

Counterinsurgency Warfare: Theory and Practice, by David Galula. New York: Greenwood Publishing Group, 2006.

Written by a French military officer who served in World War II, China, Greece, and Algeria, this is considered the classic text on counterinsurgency. Though originally published in 1964, contemporary reviewers (Daly, Killebrew, Hammes) see great value in applying its concepts to today's wars. Concisely written, the chapters of this short book address the nature of revolutionary war, insurgency, counterinsurgency, strategy and tactics, and a step-by-step guide to defeating the insurgents, influencing and controlling the population, and establishing political stability. For emphasis, LTC Galula cites historical examples and his own various experiences throughout the book.

This book is also available electronically through the *Praeger Security International Online* database.

The Culture of War, by Martin Van Creveld. New York: Presidio Press, 2008.

Throughout the ages, the culture of war has usually been highly esteemed, developing with its own traditions, laws and customs, rituals, ceremonies, music, art, literature, and monuments. This provocative book argues that men and women, contrary to the hopes of some, are just as fascinated by war today as they have been in the past. A military that has lost touch with the culture of war is doomed not merely to defeat but to disintegration.

Dereliction of Duty: Lyndon Johnson, Robert McNamara, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the Lies that Led to Vietnam, by H.R. McMaster. New York: HarperPerennial, 1998.

Dereliction of Duty is an analysis of how and why the United States became involved in an all-out war in Southeast Asia. Fully researched, based on recently released transcripts and personal accounts of crucial meetings, confrontations and decisions, it re-creates what happened and why. It also pinpoints the policies and decisions that got the United States into a quagmire and reveals who made these decisions and the motives behind them, including President Lyndon Johnson, Robert McNamara, General Maxwell Taylor, McGeorge Bundy and others.

Forgotten Continent: The Battle for Latin America's Soul, by Michael Reid. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2007.

Largely overlooked and under appreciated, Latin America is nevertheless busily transforming its political and economic landscape and becoming one of the world's most vigorous laboratories for capitalist democracy. Added to the many challenges it faces – most especially, the deep-rooted problems of poverty, inequality and social justice – is the oil-fuelled populism of Hugo Chavez.

The Gamble: General David Petraeus and the American Military Adventure in Iraq, 2006-2008, by Thomas E. Ricks. New York: Penguin Press, 2009.

Using hundreds of hours of interviews with military officers and on-the-ground reportage, Ricks documents the inside story of the Iraq War since late 2005 and examines the events that led to the launching of the surge and the beginning of a very different war.

Hot, Flat, and Crowded: Why We Need a Green Revolution – and How It Can Renew America, by Thomas L. Friedman. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2008.

Friedman takes a fresh and provocative look at two of the biggest challenges facing the country today: America's surprising loss of focus and national purpose since 9/11 and the global environmental crisis, which is affecting everything from food to fuel to forests. In this groundbreaking account, he shows how the solutions to these two big problems are linked and how America can restore the world and revive itself at the same time.

The Inheritance: The World Obama Confronts and the Challenges to American Power, by David E. Sanger. New York: Harmony Books, 2009.

The author describes the missteps and missed opportunities that occurred at home and abroad as a result of the Bush administration's five-year focus on Iraq. He specifically looks to the challenges Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran, North Korea and China may pose to the new president. But Sanger also sees how Obama might forge new international partnerships, with China in particular, to deal with the critical issues he inherited.

Learning to Eat Soup with a Knife: Counterinsurgency Lessons from Malaya and Vietnam, by John A. Nagl. Chicago, University of Chicago Press, 2005.

Nagl argues that organizational culture is key to the ability to learn from unanticipated conditions. He compares the Malayan Emergency and the Vietnam War and explains why the British army successfully conducted counterinsurgency in Malaya and why the American army failed to do so in Vietnam, treating the war instead as a conventional conflict.

Lincoln's Greatest Speech: The Second Inaugural, by Ronald C. White. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2006.

When the sixteenth president stood before his fellow countrymen on March 4, 1865, he did not offer the North a victory speech after the ending of the Civil War, nor did he excoriate the South for the sin of slavery. Instead, he called the whole country guilty of the sin and pleaded for reconciliation and unity. *Lincoln's Greatest Speech* is both an important historical document and a thoughtful analysis of his moral and rhetorical genius.

A Peace to End All Peace: Creating the Modern Middle East, 1914-1922, by David Fromkin. New York: H. Holt, 1989.

The critically acclaimed account of how the modern Middle East came into being after World War I, and why it is in upheaval today.

The Return of History and the End of Dreams, by Robert Kagan. New York: Knopf, 2008.

The grand expectation that after the Cold War the world would enter an era of international geopolitical convergence has proven wrong. Robert Kagan masterfully poses the most important questions facing the liberal democratic countries, challenging them to choose whether they want to shape history or let others shape it for them.

Running the World: The Inside Story of the National Security Council and the Architects of American Power, by David J. Rothkopf. New York: PublicAffairs, 2006.

David Rothkopf chronicles the evolution of the NSC and explores how each administration altered it to meet its needs.

The Shackled Continent: Power, Corruption, and African Lives, by Robert Guest. Washington, DC: Smithsonian Books, 2004.

Why is Africa so poor? Why are so many of its nations at war? Why is AIDS devastating Africa like nowhere else? And why do African entrepreneurs find it so hard to borrow money? In this provocative and thoughtful book, Guest argues that the continent remains poor primarily because it is badly governed. What Africa needs is peace, the rule of law, and greater freedom for individuals to pursue prosperity without hindrance from their rulers. The

prescription may sound simple, but it is tough to administer, as Guest's investigations from Angola to Zimbabwe reveal.

Swords and Ploughshares: Building Peace in the 21st Century, by Paddy Ashdown. London: Phoenix, 2008.

How can it be ensured that current missions in Afghanistan, Iraq, the Balkans, and other similar peacekeeping missions do not turn into long-term entanglements? Paddy Ashdown, a former Marine and diplomat, contends that the way to stop the big wars is to deal promptly with the small ones. In this study, Lord Ashdown investigates the successes and failures of peacekeeping operations and the lessons that have been learned, as well as the lessons that are repeatedly forgotten.

The Utility of Force: The Art of War in the Modern World, by Rupert Smith. New York: Knopf, 2007.

General Smith draws on his vast experience as a commander in the 1991 Gulf War, in Bosnia, Kosovo and Northern Ireland, to give us a probing analysis of modern war and to call for radically new military thinking. From Iraq to the Balkans, and from Afghanistan to Chechnya, Smith charts a stream of armed interventions that have failed to deliver on promises of resolution. He demonstrates why today's conflicts must be understood as intertwined political and military events and makes clear why the current one-size-fits-all model of total war fought out on battlefields must be abandoned in favor of new strategies that take into account the fact that wars are now fought among civilian populations. In the end, he offers a compelling new model for how to fight these battles—and secure our world.

Victory on the Potomac: The Goldwater-Nichols Act Unifies the Pentagon, by James R. Locher. College Station: Texas A & M University Press, 2002.

“A comprehensive account of the battle to make the GNA a reality. Skillfully bringing to life not only the players but also the issues, Mr. Locher, who was a prime mover in framing the legislation that resulted in Goldwater-Nichols, has written the definitive history of the Act.”

The War Within: A Secret White House History, 2006-2008, by Bob Woodward. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2008.

In his fourth book on the Bush presidency, Bob Woodward recounts events from mid-2006, when the White House realized the Iraq strategy was not working, through the decision to surge another 30,000 U.S. troops in 2007, and into mid-2008, when the war became a fault line in the presidential election. He addresses head-on questions of the president's leadership, not just in war but in how he has governed, and the dangers of unwarranted secrecy.

The Way of the World: A Story of Truth and Hope in an Age of Extremism, by Ron Suskind. New York: Harper, 2008.

Carefully weaving a complex web of interconnected stories from characters in America and abroad, the author depicts an America that has lost its way and forfeited the moral leadership it needs to fight the real threat to today's world: a nuclear weapon in the hands of terrorists.